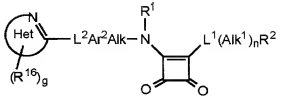
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein

Het is a bicyclic fused ring heteroaromatic group;

g is zero or the integer 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Each R^{16}, which may be the same or different is an atom or group $-L^3(Alk^2)_tL^4(R^4)_u$ in which L^3 and L^4, which may be the same or different, is each a covalent bond or a linker atom or group, t is zero or the integer 1, u is an integer 1, 2 or 3, Alk^2 is an aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain and R^4 is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, $-OR^5$ [where R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substitued C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group], $-SR^5$, $-NR^5R^6$ [where R^6 is as just defined for R^5 and may be the same or different], $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CO_2R^5$, $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^5$, $-SO_2R^5$, $-SO_3R^5$, $-OCO_2R^5$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-OCONR^5R^6$, $-CSNR^5R^6$, $-COR^5$, $-OCOR^5$, $-N(R^5)COR^6$, $-N(R^5)CSR^6$, $-SO_2N(R^5)(R^6)$, $-N(R^5)SO_2R^6$, $N(R^5)CON(R^6)(R^7)$ [where R^7 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8}cycloalkyl group], $-N(R^5)CSN(R^6)(R^7)$ or $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^6)(R^7)$, provided that when t is zero and each of L^3 and L^4 is a covalent bond then u is the integer 1 and R^4 is other than a hydrogen atom;

L^2 is a covalent bond or an atom or group -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(S)-, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2$, $-N(R^8)-$ [where R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl group] or $-C(R^8)(R^{8a})-$ [where R^{8a} is an atom or group as defined for R^8 and may be the same or different];

Ar^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk is a chain

$-CH_2CH(R)-$, $-CH=C(R)-$, $-\underset{\displaystyle CH_2R}{\overset{|}{CH}}-$ or $-\underset{\displaystyle CHR}{\overset{\|}{C}}-$

in which R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$) or a derivative or biostere thereof;

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6}alkyl group;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic chain;

n is zero or the integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted heteroaliphatic, cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polycycloalphatic, heteropolycyclo-aliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

provided that Het is not a 2,6-naphthyridin-1-yl, isoquinolin-1-yl, 2,7-naphthyridin-1-yl or quinazolin-4-yl group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 in which Alk is a chain

$-\underset{\displaystyle CH_2R}{\overset{|}{CH}}-$ or $-CH_2CH(R)-$,

3. A compound according to Claim 1 in which R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$) group.

4. A compound according to Claim 1 in which R is an esterified carboxyl group of formula $-CO_2Alk^7$.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 in which R^1 is a hydrogen atom.

6. A compound according to Claim 1 in which Ar^2 is an optionally substituted phenylene group.

7. A compound according to Claim 1 in which L^1 is a $-N(R^8)-$ group where R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl group.

8. A compound according to Claim 7 in which R^8 is a methyl, ethyl or n-propyl group.

9. A compound according to Claim 1 in which L^1 is a covalent bond.

10. A compound according to Claim 1 in which n is the integer 1, Alk^1 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6}alkylene chain and R^2 is a hydrogen atom.

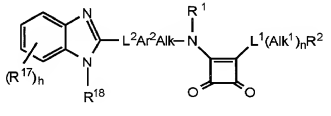
11. A compound according to Claim 10 in which Alk^1 is a $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$ or $-C(CH_3)_2CH_2-$ chain.

12. A compound according to Claim 1 in which L^1 is a covalent bond, n is zero and R^2 is an optionally substituted C_{5-7}heterocycloaliphatic group.

13. A compound according to Claim 12 in which R^2 is an optionally substituted piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, heptamethyleneiminyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl, morpholinyl or thiomorpholinyl group.

14. A compound according to Claim 1 in which L^2 is an -O- atom or $-N(R^8)-$ group in which R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl group.

15. A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (2a):



(2a)

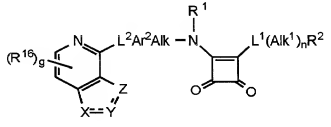
wherein:

R^{17} is an atom or group R^{16} as previously defined;

g is the integer 1, 2, 3 or 4;

h is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3;
R^{18} is a hydrogen atom or an atom or group R^{16} as previously defined;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

16. A compound according to Claim 1 of formla (2b):



(2b)

wherein:
X, Y and Z is each independently selectd from a nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atom or CH group;
the broken line (---) represents saturation or unsaturation;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

17. A compound according to Claim 16 in which X is an O or S atom, Y and Z are each a group CH, a single bond joins X and Y and a double bond joins Y and Z.

18. A compound according to Claim 16 in which Z is an O or S atom, X and Y is each a CH group, a single bond joins Y and Z and a double bond joins X and Y.

19. A compound which is:
S-2-{[2-Dipropylamino)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;
S-2-{[2-Dipropylamino)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;
S-2-{[2-(2-Methylpiperidin-1-yl)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

(*S*)-3-[4-(Thiophen[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-ylamino)phenyl]2-(2-(diethylamino-3,4-dioxocyclobut-1-enylamino)propanoic acid; and the salts, solvates, hydrates, N-oxides and carboxylic acid esters, particularly the methyl, ethyl, propyl and i-propyl esters thereof.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

21. A compound for the prophylaxis or treatment of a disase or disorder in a mammal in which the extravasation of leukocytes plays a role, comprising administering to a mammal suffering from such a disease or disorder a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

22. A method according to Claim 21 wherein said disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory arthritis, multiple sclerosis, allograft rejection, diabetes, inflammatory dermatoses, asthma and inflammatory bowel disease.

23. A method according to Claim 22 wherein said inflammatory arthritis is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis and polydermatomyositis.

24. A method according to Claim 22 wherein said inflammatory dermatoses are selected from the group consisting of prosiasis and dermatitis.

25. A method of inhibiting, in a mammal, the binding of $\alpha 4$ integrins to the ligands thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effecting amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

26. A method according to Claim 25 wherein the $\alpha 4$ integrins are selected from the group consisting of $\alpha 4\beta 1$ and $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrins.